

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a message distribution center, a phone number only experience provided by:
 - 5 a database associating subscriber MIN numbers with servicing carriers;
 - a database associating carriers with routing syntax; and
 - 10 an inter-carrier messaging module to receive a short message addressed with only a MIN number, to perform a lookup in said database associating subscriber MIN numbers and in said database associating carriers with routing syntax, and to add routing syntax determined from said lookup to said MIN number.
2. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
15 wherein:
 - 10 said database associating subscriber MIN numbers with servicing carriers and said database associating carriers with routing syntax are in a common database.
- 20 3. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
wherein:
 - 15 said MIN is a phone number.
- 25 4. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
wherein:
 - 20 said message distribution center forms a store and forward short messaging platform.

5. A method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving an initial short message addressed to a MIN only;

associating a carrier providing service to said MIN;

5 formulating a new short message including a body of said initial short message and newly addressed to said MIN with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN; and

routing said new short message.

10 6. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 5, wherein:

said phone number only addressed short message is received at, and said new short message is routed from, a service bureau.

15 7. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 5, wherein:

said MIN is a phone number.

8. The method of providing a phone number only
20 experience to a subscriber according to claim 5, wherein:

said MIN with said added syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN forms a routable address.

9. The method of providing a phone number only
25 experience to a subscriber according to claim 8, wherein:

said routable address is an e-mail address.

10. Apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber, comprising:

means for receiving an initial short message addressed to a MIN only;

5 means for associating a carrier providing service to said MIN;

means for formulating a new short message including a body of said initial short message and newly addressed to said MIN with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN; and

10 means for routing said new short message.

11. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 10, wherein:

said phone number only addressed short message is received at, and said new short message is routed from, a service bureau.

12. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 10, wherein:

said MIN is a phone number.

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13. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 10, wherein:

said MIN with said added syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN forms a routable address.

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14. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 13, wherein:

said routable address is an e-mail address.

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